

THE PUBLIC FORUM

WOULD CLOSE SALOONS.—Now

that the mayor-elect has announced his intentions of doing his utmost for the betterment of conditions in the city I hope that he will enforce the Sunday closing law, at least as far as it applies to saloons. As for those who believe their personal liberty is interfered with, let them agitate for the repeal of the law, or failing in that and thinking that they must have a whole day to enjoy the environs of the saloon, let them try for a five-day-week law. This would help to solve the unemployed problem.—Edward Callahan, 317 W. 51st pl.

THE "BAREFOOT BOY."—Not Whittier, Bacon or Shakespeare or Milton or Dante or Goethe or Schiller wrote "The Barefoot Boy," but the organized charities had the poem written. This was due to the fact that after they had paid salaries and office rent and other expenses incurred in collecting from the charitably inclined, to buy shoes for the "barefoot boys," they discovered that there was hardly anything left so the barefoot boy poem was written to demonstrate that the poor, shoeless boys were healthier without them. Whittier's name was used as author because he was a shoe cobbler and so could be considered an authority on the question.

Henry George, who at that time was a printer and was given the job of setting the type for this poem, became vexed at the perversion of the public's donations for the poor, so he wrote "Progress and Poverty" to show that the parents would be able to buy shoes for their children if the kind of charity were practised that St. Paul defines—the charity which will first spend itself in securing justice for mankind before offering alms or tracts.

If you write to the Chicago Single Tax Club, 588 Schiller Building, Chicago, you will get free, some Henry

George literature.—J. Weiler, 1908 N. Keeler av.

"HELP OTHERS FIRST."—Men working in many trades and industries now have a ten-hour working day. They are still engaged in fighting for better working conditions and better hours.

I do not condemn them for doing this, but why don't they help other workmen to get wages and hours as good as they enjoy before they attempt to better themselves.

In fruit and grocery stores clerks work 16 hours a day.

Fruit clerks get \$13 a week during the busy season and \$7 and \$8 a week the rest of the year. Are there no inspectors to see that men work decent hours? Is there no law in this land of liberty to stop this condition of slavery which we are in?—A Fruit Clerk.

THE WOMAN'S SIDE OF IT.—

There was an article in The Day Book of Jan. 11, entitled "Favors Segregation," by "An Interested Reader."

I am a married woman and understand what the man is upholding and favors, and if he is a married man perhaps he is capable of understanding a few things as a woman looks at it.

He says: "What can a young man do in Chicago?" Let him understand that a woman is not put on this earth as a plaything or a tool for a man to injure, and invariably ruin physically, as he does morally, when he has relations with her. If there is danger of his being an imbecile, if he has no more brains than to think he has got to be an imbecile, unless he can find some girl to relieve himself on, let him be an imbecile, far rather than he should be an imbecile than to leave a girl shipwrecked, diseased, with no character, as he always does, with nothing to her, while he goes around having access to any girl that he fancies because